

moved through, a green shrike-babbler was located in mid canopy. We observed the bird for around three minutes before it moved on with the goldcrests. It was foraging unobtrusively in a manner reminiscent of a red-breasted flycatcher *Ficedula parva*, perching in evergreen oak *Quercus* sp. foliage and occasionally flitting to take prey.

Four weeks later, on February 23, 1995, whilst undertaking surveys of the western tragopan *Tragopan melanocephalus* in the Palas Valley, Indus Kohistan, we encountered another green shrike-babbler. The bird was feeding alone in the canopy of evergreen oak forest at 1,900 m, foraging in a fashion similar to the individual seen earlier.

These observations confirm that the species still occurs in the Murree Hills, and extend the western limit of its known range into

Indus Kohistan.

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### 13. WESTERN GREYHEADED THRUSH *TURDUS RUBROCANUS RUBROCANUS* G.R. GRAY IN SIKKIM

A male western greyheaded thrush *Turdus rubrocanus rubrocanus* G.R. Gray was seen foraging in a freshly sown maize field at Forest Colony, Baluakhani, Gangtok (1800 m) on the morning of March 30, 1989. It was observed for ten minutes from a distance of c. 6 m.

On being disturbed by my trying to get closer, it stood motionless for more than four minutes. When another person arrived, it hopped off c. 12 m away down the terraced field to the feeding territory of the resident greybacked shrike *Lanius tephronotus*, which promptly chased it almost 60 m away. We could see it foraging in that field until some children came out to play. It then flew out of sight.

There is only one record of this bird from

Sikkim, by Dr. B. Biswas on January 7, 1953 at Kewzing c. 1700 m (Ali 1962, THE BIRDS OF SIKKIM, OUP). On May 3, 1912, one female was collected by Stevens from the Singalila Ridge (3000 m) in Darjeeling (Ali 1962) now in West Bengal. These two records give the easternmost breeding limit for the species.

After the 1989 sighting, attempts were made to look for the bird in all other areas as well, but so far without success.

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